

ISIZULU AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Paper 0531/01
Reading and Writing

Key messages

There seems to have been an improvement in terms of time management for this component. There were seemingly fewer candidates who struggled to finish. There was also improvement when it came to how the writing exercises were tackled. This is very encouraging.

General comments

Some candidates need to practise and be more confident with grammatical manipulation, for example, where they need to change from the first person in the text to the third person in order for their answer to make sense for the question asked. Candidates are not penalised for grammar mistakes per se as long as communication is effective and the correct meaning is conveyed. Candidates should also underline key words in the questions to help them focus on exactly what is required. They would do well to note the number of marks available to see how many points they need to give in order to score full marks.

There were several candidates whose handwriting was illegible. It is advisable that candidates use pens with a fine nib and make sure that they write clearly.

Comments on specific questions

Umsebenzi 1

Question 1

The majority of candidates managed to gain this mark.

Question 2

The vast majority answered this question well.

Question 3

Some candidates simply lifted from the text to respond to this question. In doing so, they included unnecessary information such as *nokuthi osomkhathi basebenza balale bazijabulise kanjani* and either failed to gain the mark or invalidated their answer.

Question 4

Just over half the candidates managed to gain this mark.

Question 5

Again, just over half the candidates were awarded this mark.

Question 6

The majority of candidates gained this mark.

Question 7

Most candidates only scored one out of the two possible marks for this question.

Umsebenzi 2

Question 8

- (i) The majority of candidates gained this mark. Some candidates gave the birth year. This was accepted but is not advisable given the context.
- (ii) About two thirds of the candidates gained this mark. Candidates who wrote *mzali* were not awarded the mark.
- (iii) The majority of candidates gained this mark.
- (iv) The majority of candidates managed to gain this mark.
- (v) The majority of candidates managed to gain this mark.
- (vi) Many candidates were not able to successfully answer this question. Many simply stated *ibhayisikili*, which was not enough.
- (vii) The majority of candidates gained this mark.
- (viii) The vast majority of candidates had difficulty answering this question and did not get the mark.
- (ix) Candidates answered this question with variable success.

Umsebenzi 3

Question 9

Several candidates did not manage to gain full marks for this question. Some candidates wrote both responses on one line instead of writing each point next to the provided bullet point. They were still awarded the mark for the separate points, but it is clearer for both candidates and examiners if they make use of one bullet point for one distinct point. This also encourages candidates to write down the necessary number of points for the question to get full marks.

Question 10

Candidates answered this question with variable success. Several candidates seemed to confuse this question with the previous one.

Question 11

The vast majority of candidates struggled with this question. Several candidates seemed to confuse this question with the two previous ones. Other candidates invalidated their responses or wrote incomplete answers.

Umsebenzi 4

Question 12

Candidates who scored higher marks in this exercise were able to write the summary mostly using their own words in a clear fashion. They were also able to follow the sequence of the original text and group related items together.

Several candidates lifted large chunks from the text or simply copied out their notes. The sense of order was there, but they struggled with expression. Candidates should focus on practising paraphrasing and using different words to convey a similar message in the lead-up to the exam.

There was an improvement with this exercise compared to previous years as many more candidates were able to score four out of the five marks available despite the text being a little challenging.

Umsebenzi 5

Question 13

Most candidates were able to respond with relevant content. Candidates who scored high marks in this exercise wrote relevant information in response to the task with well-developed ideas. Candidates should make an effort to reach the required number of words as this helps them cover all the ideas needed for content.

There were a few candidates who wrote about having both a dog and a cat instead of choosing one, suggesting that they had not understood the task properly. Candidates need to know and understand when they have to make a choice between items as this affects the appropriacy of their response and their content marks.

The quality of language had improved compared with previous years. However, the influence of candidates' mother tongue or primary language (where it is not isiZulu) remains a challenge for several candidates and affected their mark.

Umsebenzi 6

Question 14

The majority of candidates managed to gain both marks available for this question.

Question 15

On the whole, candidates answered this question well.

Question 16

Almost all the candidates struggled to answer this question correctly. Many candidates gave an incomplete response or lifted part of the answer from the text.

Question 17

A large proportion of the candidates were not able to get the mark for this question, mainly because they missed the part of the question that read *kwesinye isikhathi*. Candidates are encouraged to read questions carefully and to underline key words in the question to avoid this.

Question 18

Candidates answered this question with variable success. Several candidates only gained one mark as their responses gave only one aspect of the answer.

Question 19

Again, candidates answered this question with variable success.

Question 20

About two thirds of the candidates gained this mark.

Question 21

Many candidates found this question challenging and there were lots of blank responses. It is advisable for candidates to write at least something for questions they find difficult as this is more likely to get them the mark than writing nothing at all.

Umsebenzi 7

Question 22

Many candidates scored high marks for writing highly effective content for this exercise. The length also met the set criteria in those cases. Candidates also understood the provided points and were able to use most of them in developing their ideas well. Unfortunately, there were a few 'no responses' for this exercise which could have been due to candidates running out of time. These candidates should do lots of past paper practice under exam conditions in the lead-up to the examination and manage their time effectively to ensure they can at least attempt all parts of the paper.

ISIZULU AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Paper 0531/02
Listening

Key messages

This year, most candidates demonstrated solid listening skills and this is encouraging. Candidates are encouraged to do substantial listening practice by completing past papers and listening to authentic materials in the lead-up to the exam.

General comments

Candidates should listen carefully to the recording and make sure that their responses are accurate. There were instances where candidates wrote completely irrelevant responses to the question. Writing notes while listening to the audio can be helpful as can underlining key words in the question. Candidates should attempt a response for all questions, even if they are not sure of the answer. Candidates are encouraged to read the questions carefully first before attempting to answer the question as this skill helps with time management and to answer the questions accurately. Candidates should pay careful attention to mark allocation so that they can attempt to gain the full number of marks available for each question. There were instances where there was interference from other languages. For example, many candidates used a word heavily influenced by English, *yescience*, instead of the correct word *kwisayensi*. Candidates should also be careful of distractors in the recording. Sometimes words in the question are mentioned in the recording, but candidates need to listen for detail to check what is actually said about that vocabulary to get the right answers.

Comments on specific questions

Umsebenzi 1

A few mistakes were evident, and some candidates ticked two boxes or did not tick any box. Candidates should be aware that no mark will be awarded in such cases. Candidates should be careful of distractors in the transcript. Sometimes words in the question are mentioned in the recording, but something different to the statement in the question is said about them. On the whole, though, most candidates answered this exercise well.

Question 1

This was well answered by most of the candidates.

Question 2

Most candidates answered this question well.

Question 3

Many candidates struggled with this question, perhaps not able to identify the key vocabulary of 'the Ministry of Education'.

Question 4

About half the candidates correctly answered this question. Those who did not get the mark were likely distracted by the mention of worksheets in the transcript, but the text stated that the students did not have to complete them, hence why the answer to the question was 'false'.

Question 5

This question was challenging for quite a large number of candidates. Most candidates struggled to distinguish between visitors to the aquarium telling their families about marine conservation after the visit as opposed to taking their families with them on the visit and were distracted by the mention of 'families' in the recording.

Question 6

This was well answered by most of the candidates.

Umsebenzi 2

On the whole, candidates did well in this exercise, which is encouraging as it was evident that many candidates could effectively identify the distractors in this multiple-choice exercise. Other candidates do need to be prepared for possible distractors in the recording.

Question 7

Stronger candidates were able to answer the question correctly, but a large number of candidates struggled, perhaps because they were distracted by the mention of a small stone.

Question 8

A little over half the candidates answered this question correctly.

Question 9

This was well answered by almost all candidates.

Question 10

Some candidates ticked D instead of C.

Question 11

Most candidates answered this question well, correctly identifying that the artist found stones she liked while walking in the countryside rather than opting for the distractors of the beach or people sending her the stones.

Umsebenzi 3

This exercise proved to be a challenge for some candidates, but about two thirds of the candidates were able to show a good understanding of the headings and were able to fill in the gaps accurately. Candidates are not penalised for spelling and grammar mistakes in this section provided that communication is clear.

Question 12

- (i) Most candidates answered this question well as they could identify the key word *yezitshalo* meaning 'plants', but a few candidates simply responded with *yescience*, which was not the correct answer and was in any case heavily influenced by English.
- (ii) There were some challenges with this question. Some candidates struggled with writing the correct phrase *zimila lapha kuphela*, which means 'they only grow here'. Some candidates only wrote one word answers such as *eNamaqualand*. It would appear that most candidates understood the recording but struggled to formulate the answer.
- (iii) This question was well answered by most candidates. Only a one-word answer was needed, which was *nezithombe*.
- (iv) Candidates again only needed a one-word answer here, *ezincane*. Candidates had to listen carefully to understand exactly what was being asked.

- (v) Just over half the candidates answered this question correctly and were able to give two points to score full marks.
- (vi) Most candidates understood this question well and it was answered correctly by the majority. Answers ranged from *izinkulungwane* to *zamarandi*, which showed that they understood the key word *isigwebo*.
- (vii) Almost every candidate got this question correct.

Umsebenzi 4

The performance was varied for this exercise, but most questions were satisfactorily answered. Candidates are encouraged to write notes while listening and then formulate their answers afterwards or on second listening. Again, candidates are not penalised for spelling and grammar mistakes in this section provided that communication is clear.

Question 13

Candidates had to be specific here and specify the word *ubuthongo* meaning 'deep sleep'. Some candidates wrote *ukulala*, which means simply 'sleep' and was not enough to get the mark.

Question 14

Most responses to this question were correct. Some candidates used *geza ngamanzi ashisayo*, which was still acceptable, and they showed some understanding that you need to bathe with warm water before you sleep.

Question 15

A significant number of candidates only gave part of the answer to this question. Furthermore, some of the answers were not complete. A common answer to the question was *zithatha isikhathi*, which simply means 'they take time', and candidates left out the part *esiningi ukuzifunda*, which means 'to learn them'.

Question 16

This question was well answered by most candidates.

Question 17

Many candidates answered this question partially and did not mention that you need to sleep at the same time daily. Candidates only mentioned sleep at the same time. A common answer was *lala ngesikhathi esifanayo*, leaving out *nsuku zonke*. Candidates are encouraged to listen out for detail and to transfer the detail they hear to their answer, all the while making sure it is still directly relevant to the question asked.

Question 18

Most candidates only managed to give the correct answer for the first part of this question and did not say why. Candidates are encouraged to look at the number of marks available for the question to check how many points they need to include in their answer and to underline key words in the question so that they do not forget to answer fully. A few candidates simply gave an incomplete response, and they were not awarded any mark for this as their answers were not meaningful. Most candidates were able to mention *libeke ekudeni* (put your alarm clock out of reach), but several struggled with the second part *ukuze ungalibheki* (so that you do not get distracted or look at it).

Question 19

The majority of candidates were able to give a correct response to this question. They were able to say 'old people must avoid sleeping during the day'. Common answers included *abantu asebekhulile* or *abantu abadala*, which were both acceptable responses.

Question 20

This question was well answered by most candidates. It only required a one-word answer, which was *ukudla okulula*.

Question 21

Candidates were able to comprehend the question and give the necessary response. The question was straightforward and only required candidates to respond with one word. Candidates were able to say *ekuseni*, which means 'in the morning'.

Question 22

Candidates answered this question well. They are encouraged to write the word 'diary' in isiZulu, for instance *idayari*, rather than relying on borrowed spellings.